

## Dole urges total Lebanon pullout

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole Saturday urged Israel to "bring about a total pullout" of its troops from Lebanon, saying that the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East is to remove Israeli forces from the country. "The only way to achieve peace in the Middle East is to remove Israeli forces from the country," Dole said. "The only way to achieve peace in the Middle East is to remove Israeli forces from the country."

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## Oman launches Gulf mediation

BAGHDAD (AP) — Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Abdullah Al Alawi met Saturday with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz on bilateral relations and regional issues, officials here said. Arab diplomats said they believed the Oman minister may be on a mediation mission to revive stalled peace talks between Iraq and Iran. Alawi arrived in Baghdad Saturday evening and was received at the airport by Aziz. His visit comes after the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders, in their December meeting in Kuwait, urged Oman to mediate an end to the stalemate in the Iran-Iraq war. In the past Iraq has rejected Arab mediation with Iran, saying that Arabs should support Iraq's position in the peace talks. However, Oman is known to have maintained good relations with Iran, which it faces across the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iran's ties with the rest of the Gulf states were strained during the war.

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## Lebanese photographer dies of wounds

BEIRUT (R) — Leading Lebanese war photographer George Semerdjian died in hospital Saturday, three days after being struck in the head by a stray bullet during inter-Christian fighting in east Beirut. Semerdjian, 46, who worked for Beirut's Al Nahar newspaper and part-time for Reuters, never regained consciousness and died in the American University Hospital, west Beirut. Critically wounded during fierce street battles last Wednesday, Semerdjian was first taken to a hospital in east Beirut. Fighting was so intense, surgeons were unable to reach him there. During a brief ceasefire Thursday an ambulance from west Beirut crossed the green line dividing the city and evacuated him to the American University Hospital where surgeons operated. Semerdjian had covered Lebanon's war for the past 20 years and his photographs, distributed by United Press International and later by Reuters, appeared in hundreds of newspapers.

## Sudan relief plane turned back

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese authorities turned away a relief plane carrying 15 tonnes of food for the beleaguered city of Juba Saturday for the second time in three days, a relief worker said. Bob Koepf, coordinator of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) relief programme in southern Sudan, said the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi had assured him the C-130 Hercules carrying Italian-donated maize would be allowed to make the flight from Nairobi. But when the plane made contact with Khartoum air traffic control as it crossed the border from Kenya, the pilot was told to turn round.

## Britain, Soviets resolve dispute

LONDON (AP) — Britain and the Soviet Union have resolved a dispute over the number of diplomats and other representatives each can have in the other's country, the British Foreign Office said. Under the deal, the present limit of 20 each will remain for the time being but a Foreign Office statement added: "We have now agreed to work towards a state of relations where limitations will no longer be necessary. For the moment, each side will keep its own numbers within agreed overall limits. A review of progress will be held at the appropriate time." The 205 limit was set following a diplomatic row between the two countries when Britain ordered the expulsion of eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists last May. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government accused them of unacceptable activities — diplomatic language for spying.

## Two Thais beheaded in Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Two Thais were beheaded in Saudi Arabia's eastern province of Dammam Friday for murdering a competitor, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency quoted an interior ministry statement as saying a Saudi was also beheaded in Riyadh Friday for robbery.

## Kohl rejects Soviet proposal

DAVOS (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Saturday flatly rejected a Soviet proposal that Europeans and North Americans vote on whether German unity should be allowed. Kohl spoke to reporters after a one-hour meeting with Communist Premier Hans Modrow of East Germany, which focused on the economic crisis caused by the continuing exodus of his country's citizens to West Germany. "The main topic was that both of us stressed once again the exceptional seriousness of the situation, as the number of migrants remains high — about 55,000 in January," Kohl said. Modrow said both sides had a frank discussion on intra-German relations to play the groundwork for his Feb. 15-14 visit to Bonn, the second half-fledged East-West German summit since East Germany launched democratic reforms last fall (see page 8).

## Expenditure reduced by JD 11.869 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed the 1990 national budget with 52 votes in favour and at least 16 against and four abstentions out of 77 members attending the session. The tally could not be immediately confirmed because of discrepancies in the figures with some deputies putting rejections at 19 and abstentions at six. The House endorsed the budget after adopting minor amendments which reduced expenditure by JD 11.869 million to JD 1,094,122 billion. The approved budget envisages total revenues of JD 906.7 million and a deficit of JD 199.1 million. Debt servicing — payment of interest and repayment of principal — account for JD 87.46 million in the budget. The budget, which was presented by Finance Minister Basil Jaradneh to the Lower House in the first week of January, outlines

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## House endorses 90 budget

## Badran outlines plans to streamline spending, address rising cost of living and unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are major excerpts from the speech made by Prime Minister Mubarak Badran to the Lower House of Parliament session on the 1990 draft budget Saturday.

In the name of the government I express profound thanks to the Financial Committee of the Lower House for conducting this long study on the 1990 fiscal budget and I would like to express the government's view that the budget report does not reflect the state's public expenditure because it does not contain the budgets of independent public sector organisations. But, this should not be considered as a constitutional violation. The public organisations were set up in accordance with laws and were legally granted financial and administrative independence in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution for the purpose of providing them with flexibility in the course of offering

services to the public. These organisations are subject to control by the Audit Bureau and the government will therefore submit their budgets to the Financial Committee once they are ready before the end of April.

The government will study the committee's recommendation for the amendment of the law on organising the budget to include a clause stating the need for the Financial Committee's endorsement of all budgets of various

organisations. The study will be aimed at scrapping those organisations which have become obsolete or incorporating them with others. I have already made it clear in my government policy statement

that the reform programme is a national programme representing the country's policy and is designed to enable the country to achieve self-reliance and to depend on local revenues to build a

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# Deputies call for activating private sector, cutting public spending

Dr. Nayef Abu Tayeh

Dr. Nayef Abu Tayeh (South Bedouins) spoke about the various challenges that Jordan faces and the endless efforts of His Majesty King Hussein to counter all the plots against this country. The deputy paid tribute to Jordanian Armed Forces and demanded that they get sufficient financial support.

Abu Tayeh requested that the National Medical Institution (NMI) be merged with the Ministry of Health and that the armed forces remain financially independent.

Abu Tayeh urged the government to upgrade its water policy and to keep enough food supplies in the market at reasonable prices.

Ziad Abu Mahfouz

Ziad Abu Mahfouz (Zarqa), was specific in his demands after a brief general statement in which he criticised the indebtedness that the country was plunged into without careful feasibility studies or awareness to development priorities.

The Zarqa deputy urged continued support for the armed forces, continuing food subsidies, invigorating the private sector by widening competition forces and stopping government and public sector extravagance and mismanagement.

He also proposed establishing light industries to ease unemployment but at the same time unifying institutions wherever possible to avoid duplication of work.

Abu Mahfouz backed the committee's financial support steering that independent government institutions should incorporate their budget in the general government budget to enable the parliament to examine all the finances of the central government as a whole.

Moreover, the Zarqa deputy called on the executive bodies to improve the conditions of employees by fixing a ceiling to the lowest and highest wages, and to form a parliamentary committee to contact Arab countries and explain Jordan's economic situation to urge them to support the Kingdom.

Saad Al Sior

Saad Al Sior (North Bedouins) was optimistic in his address, noting that if Jordan failed in benefiting from the "plentiful" years, Jordanians have no choice but to carefully monitor the difficult times. He referred to the "difficult triangle" of unemployment, indebtedness and high cost of living and said they were the main problems that should be tackled.

Sior said the solution to the problems begins by admitting first of all that there is no quick and comprehensive way out... a fact which allies the desire to exert pressure on discussing the issue.

The North Bedouins deputy asserted the need to reduce government spending noting that the infrastructure in many areas was completed but need maintenance to keep it in good standard. He suggested small-scale farming and industrial ventures to ease unemployment, stressing decentralisation in all forms to achieve that purpose.

Sior demanded immediate measures to control price rises in general and to protect consumers from bad quality goods.

Dr. Mohammad Abu 'Ula

Deputy Dr. Mohammad Abu 'Ula (Madfayn) proposed improving the condition of hospitals and other services, cutting government spending, and directing all capabilities towards production.

frontline countries, and the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

He also proposed rationalisation of government expenditures and entrusting the armed forces with the duty of playing a role in the development process.

Deputy Deeb Anis Abdul Hafiz (Zarqa) proposed that the government of Prime Minister Madar Badran

1- to reconsider the volume of funds to be spent by official government departments including the radio and television corporations,

2- to reexamine the prospect of opening government offices for five days a week so that a great deal of electricity, water and fuel can be saved, and

3- to reexamine the question of rented government buildings for which the government pays JD 4 million annually. He said that this sum could be used to build proper buildings for which the government can pay in instalments.

Abdul Hafiz criticised the government in general and the Ministry of Agriculture in particular for failing to provide water supplies to the farmers and to provide proper assistance to those who lose crops as a result of natural conditions such as frost.

He said that while the government advocates the cause of tree planting to green the Kingdom, the farmers fail to get sufficient water for agriculture, the backbone of Jordan's economy.

He demanded that the government provide sufficient supplies of water for the farmers and animal feed for stockbreeders. He also called on the government to put an end to corruption, and end injustice in many areas.

Abdul Hafiz, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, admitted that the Brotherhood's slogan in the election campaign "Islam is the solution" can not be applied altogether. He said solution can come gradually, but will take a long time, and for this reason he suggested that the national economy be Islamic-oriented, that the government terminate the interest on loans systems, adopt an austerity programme starting with those in responsible positions, that large areas in the eastern regions be reclaimed, that the audit bureau intensify its activities to end any embezzlements of public funds, and that the government intensify its control over the companies and industrial operations.

Abdul Hafiz noted that the Zarqa region which he represents, has three Palestinian refugee camps — Hittin, Zarqa and Sukhneh — all of which, he said, lack proper health, and public services. "Tens of thousands of people live in the camps which have only one approach and are congested and lack a healthy atmosphere."

He demanded that the government do something to improve conditions.

The deputy criticised the work of the National Medical Institution (NMI) which he said did not live up to expectations. "The NMI has been established for two years now, but its failure to carry out its tasks rendered it obsolete. Failures, he said, can be felt in the shrinking of hospital services and the shortage of essential medicines."

In his speech, Abdul Hafiz discussed the need for Jordan to have a strong army which, he said, is needed to drive the invaders of Arab Palestine. He said Arab Palestine is from the sea to the River Jordan and the Jordanian Armed Forces which shield the Arab Nation are needed to evict the Zionists from the Arab land.

Hammzah Mansour

Deputy Hammzah Mansour (Amman) said that the 1990 fiscal budget will not achieve its objectives unless rationalisation is conducted at all official government departments. He also called for providing Jordanian citizens with services meeting life needs and based on justice. Mansour also stressed confidence that Jordan will be capable of surmounting its current problems once behaviours have been rectified.

Abdul Latif Arabiyat

Deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat from the Salt remarked that the budget report was marked with objectivity and responsibility, but it lacked a general philosophy to govern the future budgets. He said that a fiscal budget is a plan that can have a great impact on the country's economy and therefore a clear policy is required to guide the government's future

budget plans.

Referring to the various aspects of the budget report, Arabiyat called on the government:

1- To deal with the question of unemployment through reorganising the national workforce, encouraging investments in small businesses,

2- To put an end to borrowing which, he said, has detrimental consequences on the nation. He said that clear policies should be drawn up in this matter and the public debt law should be amended to stem internal borrowing,

3- To reexamine budgets of public companies in which the government holds 51 per cent equity,

4- To create incentives for expatriates to encourage them to invest in Jordan,

5- To carry out a purge in government and public administration so as to have a strong and qualified civil service system,

6- To avoid appointing people in positions under contract and to adhere to the regulations set by the Civil Service Commission,

7- To maintain subsidies for basic commodities to the people but that priority should be given to needy groups.

Arabiyat also demanded that the Zakat fund run by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, be developed into an Islamic fund capable of providing aid and solving socio-economic problems.

He thanked the government in the name of the Muslim Brotherhood for responding favourably to its call to form a committee to study loans for agricultural projects and housing.

Arabiyat also urged the government to set a new system of accepting students at Jordanian universities with a view to providing a better service covering the largest sector of students.

Ziad Al Shweikh

Maan Deputy Ziad Al Shweikh said that the 1990 budget analysis is more important than those of the past for several reasons. It comes as the Zionist danger increases and at a time of a prevailing economic and financial crisis with its obvious results of unemployment, inflation, external and internal indebtedness and disorders in the economic and financial systems, Shweikh said.

He said that no solution to the crisis can be reached without knowing the reasons that caused it. "We admit that the government's budget report this year was objective and realistic in some of its parts, and for the first time it defined some internal causes for the crisis besides the external causes. But it did not mention all the internal aspects that led to the crisis, particularly the chronic disorder in the economic structure, and the weakness and backwardness of the production infrastructure as well as the mismanagement of economic institutions," Shweikh added.

Shweikh said that any efforts exerted to solve the economic problems should be accompanied by the following policies and procedures:

First, the government should activate, promote and extend the role of private sector institutions and remove all obstacles that obstruct this sector's movement.

Second, bolstering and deepening the democratic march in all the political, economic and social affairs.

Third, adopting modern scientific policies and procedures to develop and modernise the administrative system.

Fourth, increasing the role of the parliament, audit bureau, and the mass media.

Shweikh criticised estimated increase in income tax revenues from JD 54 million to JD 100 million noting that this would "adversely affect these very tax revenues and standard of economic motives" in the future.

Discussing the issue of inflation, Shweikh said: "The budget does not include evidence that the government used it as a tool to combat inflation problem." Shweikh added that the budget failed to present proposals on means to combat unemployment and did not include allocations adequate to develop local production projects.

Touche on foreign indebtedness, Shweikh said: "The figures of the 1990 fiscal budget do not show that there will be an improvement in the situation related to foreign indebtedness. On the contrary indebtedness will increase because a total of JD 87 million will be settled at a time when about JD 253 million in foreign debt will be acquired."

He called for a courageous revision of past mistakes to avoid their recurrence.

## Jordan laments lack of Arab food security

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab World is going through a critical stage in view of its increasing dependence on foreign sources for food and the Arab failure to carry out projects that can yield sufficient amounts of food staff for the Arab population, Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Sami Sunna said here Saturday.

The Arab World has increased its reliance on external sources to meet its needs for lean meat and animal feed as the agricultural lands in the Arab World continue to shrink due to building operations and industry in areas which used to be grown with wheat, Sunna said in an address to the opening session of a six-day training course on techniques and methodology to improve barley cultivation.

Sunna said wheat and barley were grown in semi-arid areas which receive limited amounts of rainfall insufficient for the cultivation of grain and cereals.

The course is organised by the International Centre for Agricultural Research and Dry Areas (ICARDA), which has a regional office in Amman. Participants in the course represent Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Qatar.

The course will be conducted by specialists from ICARDA and from Jordan, according to an ICARDA official.

The course is part of a Mashreq project and is sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The project is being implemented in Jordan, Syria and Iraq, with technical assistance from ICARDA.

According to ICARDA officials, the project aims at helping increase barley, pasture and sheep production in low-rainfall areas of the three countries. Through the project, said an ICARDA official, training will be provided to technicians working in the field to upgrade their knowledge, abilities and skills in barley and livestock production, and in transferring available technology to farmers and sheep owners.

## Armenians mourn Jerusalem patriarch

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Armenian community in Jordan and the Holy Land was in a state of mourning Saturday over the death of the Armenian patriarch of Jerusalem, Yeghishhe Derderian, who died Thursday of a heart attack at his residence in the St. James Convent in the Old City of Jerusalem. He died at the age of 80.

The Armenian bishop in Amman Saturday began receiving condolences.

Derderian, one of the three custodians of Jerusalem's Christian holy places, died at about 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) Thursday, Church Secretary Father George Hintlian told the AP in Jerusalem. He said Derderian had been ill with influenza for two days.

Bells of mourning pealed in the Old City's Armenian quarter to announce the death, and dozens of congregation members rushed to the convent.

Armenian women, dressed in black mourning clothes, greeted each other somberly as they entered to pray. Black flags were hung beside the white and red flag of the patriarchate.

Derderian, who was born in the eastern Turkish city of Van, came to Jerusalem in 1922, seven years after his family was killed in the 1915 massacre in which hundreds of thousands of Armenian residents of the Ottoman empire were slain.

He studied at the St. James Theological Seminary and served as its dean before being named deputy patriarch in 1949. In 1960, he became patriarch of Jerusalem, Hintlian said.

Derderian over married, although Armenian clergymen are permitted to do so.

"He was very outspoken on Armenian affairs," said Hintlian. For example, during January celebrations of the Armenian Christmas, Derderian accused Soviet authorities of not doing enough to stop the violence in the southern Caucasus between Azeris and Armenians. Derderian at the time appealed to world leaders to "stop the continuing blood-bath."

Derderian also wrote 22 books, including biographies of religious figures and poetry, Hintlian said. "He was quite informed about the world and he was a great traveller," added Hintlian.

Derderian was the spiritual leader of 8,000 Armenians in Jordan, Israel, and the occupied West Bank. He was also one of the three custodians of Jerusalem's holy places, along with the Greek Orthodox and

Yeghishhe Derderian

Latin patriarchs.

Hintlian said the funeral was tentatively scheduled for the middle of next week, adding that hundreds of clergymen from abroad would attend the burial.

Among the expected guests are Catholicos Vazken, head of the mother church in Soviet Armenia, and Catholicos Karekin, head of the Lebanese branch, Hintlian said.

There are about 7.5 million Armenians worldwide, including one million in the United States, Hintlian said.

The Armenian church is one of the Eastern Rite churches which are organised along ethnic lines and accept the authority of the Pope but have considerable autonomy in ritual and questions of discipline.

News Agency, SABA, and has funds for training personnel, according to Saleem.

Dr. Nawaf Udawo from FANA said the federation had hired an Arabist channel to benefit news exchange programmes among Arab countries. He said the move was made to promote communication links and to help Arab countries exchange cultural and social development experiences.

Delegates taking part in the two-day meeting represent a number of Arab universities, including Yarmouk University, and several organisations like FANA and the African Centre for Training Journalists in addition to the information department at the Arab League.

## Unity key theme of ACC Parliament talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar Saturday described the outcome of the first meeting of parliamentary committees of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries held in Baghdad last week as fruitful and positive.

The recommendations adopted by the meeting represented "the minimum level of the Arab people's aspirations for pan-Arab unity," Arar said upon his return here from Baghdad.

Arar, who led Jordan's 15-member delegation to the meeting, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the committee endorsed a statute and discussed various basic issues related to "the critical stage through which the Arab World is now passing."

Particular attention was given to the situation in the occupied Palestinian land and the influx of Jewish immigrants, he said. The situation in Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran situation in the Gulf were also reviewed, he said.

He said the committee's members — representing Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — stressed the need for closer cooperation among Arab economic blocs in the face of other major economic blocs and called for pan-Arab unity to confront common challenges.

Arar delivered Jordan's address at the meeting, which was opened by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Thursday, noting that the way was now open for parliaments of the ACC countries to work together to achieve the goals of the council which was set up last February.

"In view of the international situation and the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands, the Arabs have no alternative but to unite into one force capable of confronting the challenges," Arar told the meeting. He said that the influx of Jews to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was "another international conspiracy against the Arab Nation."

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## Information specialists review papers

AMMAN (Petra) — Specialists entrusted with following up the implementation of resolutions adopted by inter-governmental conferences on information policies began a two-day meeting in Amman Saturday to review two working papers dealing with surveys and needs of information services in the Arab World.

The meeting is organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Saadeddin Ibrahim, the ATF president, urged the participants to submit applicable resolutions. He said previous Arab conferences on information and com-

munications issued around 6,000 recommendations dealing with similar matters but so far none have been implemented.

Adnan Saleem from the UNESCO office said the meeting would address training and production of programmes and ways to support the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) along with other issues.

Saleem stressed that previous resolutions designed to promote cooperation in information areas should be implemented. UNESCO has allocated funds to help Arab states set up data banks in information and news material, which will be located at the premises of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Syrian News Agency, SANA, and the North Yemeni

News Agency, SABA, and has funds for training personnel, according to Saleem.

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Delegates taking part in the two-day meeting represent a number of Arab universities, including Yarmouk University, and several organisations like FANA and the African Centre for Training Journalists in addition to the information department at the Arab League.

Dr. Hani Al Amad, secretary general of the Ministry of Culture, told the opening session, which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, that the Arab World was now facing an onslaught of Western music due to the lack of proper musical training in Arab countries.

"There is a dire need for planning educational programmes that include teaching of music and for distributing works in Arabic music," he said. The Ministry of Culture, Amad said, supports the creation of national committees to operate in each Arab country to give attention to music teaching and to maintain contacts with similar international organisations.

Brigadier General Tareq Abdul Hakim of Saudi Arabia, president of the Arab League Academy of Music, told the meeting that music should be made to represent Arab culture in general and reflect the national culture in particular.

Saturday's board meeting is part of a week-long programme general of the Ministry of Culture, which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, that the Arab World was now facing an onslaught of Western music due to the lack of proper musical training in Arab countries.

"There is a dire need for planning educational programmes that include teaching of music and for distributing works in Arabic music," he said. The Ministry of Culture, Amad said, supports the creation of national committees to operate in each Arab country to give attention to music teaching and to maintain contacts with similar international organisations.

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## Unity key theme of ACC Parliament talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar Saturday described the outcome of the first meeting of parliamentary committees of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries held in Baghdad last week as fruitful and positive.

The recommendations adopted by the meeting represented "the minimum level of the Arab people's aspirations for pan-Arab unity," Arar said upon his return here from Baghdad.

Arar, who led Jordan's 15-member delegation to the meeting, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the committee endorsed a statute and discussed various basic issues related to "the critical stage through which the Arab World is now passing."

Particular attention was given to the situation in the occupied Palestinian land and the influx of Jewish immigrants, he said. The situation in Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran situation in the Gulf were also reviewed, he said.

He said the committee's members — representing Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — stressed the need for closer cooperation among Arab economic blocs in the face of other major economic blocs and called for pan-Arab unity to confront common challenges.

Arar delivered Jordan's address at the meeting, which was opened by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Thursday, noting that the way was now open for parliaments of the ACC countries to work together to achieve the goals of the council which was set up last February.

"In view of the international situation and the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands, the Arabs have no alternative but to unite into one force capable of confronting the challenges," Arar told the meeting. He said that the influx of Jews to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was "another international conspiracy against the Arab Nation."

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## Spirits, numbers, stars

Interest in the science of astrology is increasing among the young generation, especially because of the fact that it deals with the unknown, predicting the future and analysing the major characteristics of people's personalities, Saeda Kilani interviews one of Jordan's astrologers.

AMMAN — After 37 years of continuous study in spiritualism, astrology and numerology, Mohammad Abdul Hadi has become one of the few experts in the field in Jordan. He predicts the future and major events in one's life and personality through "basic and scientific analysis," he says.

With an average of 10 to 15 "clients" a week, Abdul Hadi tries to apply his knowledge of astrology in analysis of people's personalities, lives and careers. In turn, the clients themselves could deduct how this science operates and consequently apply it on their future, according to Abdul Hadi.

Abdul Hadi has written three books, but says he was disappointed with public reaction to his works, mainly on astrology and numerology — relatively unknown subjects in Jordan.

"An average of only 750 copies of my books were sold out of a total of 2,500," Abdul Hadi told the Jordan Times in an interview at his home in Jabal Luweibdeh. Faced with the discouraging response, Abdul Hadi, in his late sixties, stopped publishing books and began inviting people to his residence with the purpose of expanding his scientific analysis and confirming the importance of astrology as a science to the public. He now charges JD 5 per "sitting" which usually lasts for about an hour.

Some of those who visit him are from the younger generation seeking to find their future, though they admit their being indifferent to the whole procedure. Sawwan Addeken, 25 years old, says that she visited Abdul Hadi mostly out of curiosity. "I went there because I did not have anything else to do; but, truthfully, he said many accurate things about my past, and accordingly, I hope what he said about my future, will be true. I buy now many lottery tickets!"

In his session with Addeken, Abdul Hadi asked her only about her name and birthdate at the beginning, from which he deduced major events about her past which, according to her, were true. The way Abdul Hadi conducts his "sitting" is first by informing the client about the meaning of the first letter of his/her name, then about the whole name and the effect it impacts on the personality.

"From my birthdate, he calculated the numbers, and predicted the important years in my life and also read in my past. Then he also figured out many behavioural characteristics from my sign, which happens to be true," said Sawwan.

However, Abdul Hadi complains, people disbelieve or rather do not take this science as a real, independent and useful one. The argument was clearly reflected in the words of another of his clients.

"I would have never gone there

if he were not a real researcher on the subject," Jules Grest said. "However, until now I don't believe that anyone could predict the future, not even him, even if it was a real science of its own."

Abdul Hadi's first interest was spiritualism; "the survival of death, that is, everyone has a spirit body in addition to his physical body. The former is the original and the latter is a temporary vessel used by the spirit for a certain number of years," he says. "Then, when the physical body becomes useless because of age, disease and accident, the spirit withdraws from it to another realm of existence: the spiritual world."

"This science created in me the desire to know more about it," explains Abdul Hadi. "That is why I kept travelling to England to attend various spiritual circles and sit with mediums; who were able to receive messages from the spirit world and convey them to me."

Then, spiritual healing in particular appealed to him. He says that according to his studies in this field, it is believed that doctors who have passed to the spirit world discovered that there are healing rays which can be transmitted to patients on earth through mediums. "Now, in many countries, including England, the United States and other Western countries, there are thousands of such mediums who are being used by spiritual doctors to transmit the same healing rays," he says.

During the 1970s, Abdul Hadi visited many spiritual clinics and sanctuaries and watched many healing mediums provide their services.

One of the very well-known mediums, Harry Edwards, who died in 1980, offered his services for over 40 years, according to Abdul Hadi, who says he witnessed a case where Edwards cured a 75 year old man who had suffered from arthritis for seven years. His illness knew no cure, but was given painkiller tablets, but soon they ceased to have effect and the old man's problem became more and more acute before he approached Edwards.

"Dr. Edwards placed his hands on the back of the patient, allowing the spirit rays to come to his back bones," recalls Abdul Hadi. "Then, he moved his hands to the patient's knees. In less than three minutes, the patient said the pain had vanished and everything was normal."

In 1968, Abdul Hadi changed his orientation into astrology after having passed through the same conditions and misfortunes that a lady astrologer in New Zealand predicted a year ago.

"By correspondence, this lady sent me a book of numerology that shows the meaning of numbers that appear in our birthdate and how to convert the letters in our names into numbers, then to try to find out the correlation be-



Mohammad Abdul Hadi

tween the numbers of our birthdate and the numbers of the existing year," Abdul Hadi explained.

From that time on and for 23 years, he concentrated most of his time on studying numerology and astrology; purely personal studies. And because of the rarity of books on this subject, he used to buy them from England.

Abdul Hadi says he has conducted extensive research on the topics, "including the effect of planets on birth signs and partly the indication the name has on our personality and the significance of the first letter in our

names to our career."

In India, for example, Hindu parents do not name their children themselves; according to one of the researchers of Abdul Hadi, when the child is born, parents go to specialised scientist or astrologer to choose the name for them in order to stimulate, a linkage between birthdate numbers and number of letters in the name.

"The importance of this science is to prepare people psychologically to what may happen in the future," explains Abdul Hadi, "and to warn them, if we can, of any possible misfortunes."

## OPEN FORUM

## Arab Sat

In the computerised complex age, a highly efficient contraption is silently orbiting the upper strata, carrying a primitive paradox, the Arab Sat.

The Arabs sat and indeed for such a long time. One which involved strict mental stagnation accompanied by a slow process of capacity and efficiency deterioration. Confusion and disarray prevailed over our great nation, whilst our enemy was usurping our land and resources. We have, solely and successfully, managed to deprive our forthcoming generations of their past, present and the orbiting future, rendering them astray.

The stone mangers, are sculpting their future, a new breed, equipped with the essence of sacrificial courage that fuels their exquisite zeal; an omen for us to start a serious revision of our current criteria, thus, inevitably, yielding a solution. One, which we dreamt of for long, unity, could ultimately alleviate our plight. Unity, a simple yet powerful word, has been conveyed to us through religion and literature. Unfortunately it was always disregarded and branded with a political emblem. The United Kingdom, the United States of America, the United Soviet Socialist Republics have all realised that unity exudes power and fortifies economic sustenance.

The primitive paradox that has puzzled the likes of me, is still perplexing many. Why is it that we have the doctrine, the natural resources, the sense of belonging, the manpower, the arable lands, and last but not least the brains, and yet we are wasting ourselves, generation after generation, into oblivion?

I beseech the new generation to obviate all disputes, and to adopt unity as their saviour. Then and only then will we enjoy the Arab stand.

Ali Malhas



Aqaba (above) and Petra (below) are Jordan's most attractive touristic sites.

## Jordan's tourism — incredible potential, problems of funds and organisation

By Alistair Lyon  
Reuters

AMMAN — Scarcely-clad Finns crowding the Red Sea beach at Aqaba are good news for Jordan's fledgling tourist industry, but Islamic fundamentalists say they are offensive.

"The people of Aqaba are getting fed up with the flagrant clothes of tourists... this leads to moral corruption," Muslim Brotherhood deputy Youssef Al Athm told parliament last week. The success of Islamists in last year's election is just the latest worry for tour operators who say Jordan may lose out in a competitive world market unless it takes tourism more seriously.

"Until now we haven't realised that tourism is an industry and a source of the hard currency Jordan needs. To make money you must spend it," said Near East Tours manager George Bawab. "Jordan, struggling with a huge foreign debt, earned more than \$600 million from tourism in 1988, not far behind exports income of \$875 million, official figures show."

Figures for 1989 have not yet been issued, but operators say it was another good year despite the impact of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This scared off most of the American religious tourists who used to visit Jordan briefly on tours of the holy land.

"We used to get 40 to 60 U.S. groups in March and April, but this year we have only seven or eight," Bawab said.

Bawab and his colleagues say Jordan needs a more aggressive, professional and coordinated approach to fulfill its potential. "We are on the threshold of a tremendous leap forward, but we are about to lose our advantage," said Mami Nassar, manager of International Trades, a travel agency.

"Jordan has become accepted as a tourist destination in Europe, Japan and the Gulf countries, but we need funds and organisation

to sustain this," he added.

"The potential is incredible, especially for incentive and selective tourism," said Majid Khabil, manager of the five-star Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, "but we need more infrastructure and we must reach the people who haven't heard about Jordan."

This year 10,000 Finns and 2,800 West Germans on package tours are expected to sample the winter sunshine of Aqaba.

They will pack hotels there from mid-February to the end of May. An acute shortage of hotel beds also afflicts Jordan's main tourist attraction, the rock-hewn Nabatean city of Petra.

"We could triple or quadruple the 60,000 package tourists we get now, but we need more beds in Petra," Bawab said.

A good road network gives easy access to most of the Kingdom's rich archaeological sites, such as Jerash, Mount Nebo, Pella, Um Qais and a chain of Islamic desert castles.

But tourist hotels, resthouses and restaurants, where they exist at all, are rudimentary at many sites.

Tourism Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, whose family owns an Aqaba hotel, acknowledges the shortcomings and is trying to persuade the government and private sector to invest more.

"Tourism is the only hope for Jordan," he told Reuters, saying it had better prospects as a money-spinner than industry of agriculture which faced growing regional competition.

"What we can offer tourists is unmatched but we need money to launch a marketing campaign abroad and the ministry has a promotion budget of only 130,000 dollars," he said.

Kabariti is promoting a plan to create a private sector tourist agency funded by matching contributions from private investors, the government, the national airline Royal Jordanian and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The target is \$800,000 this year to pilot a five-year investment

strategy. This would identify suitable tourist sites and seek government approval and incentives for development projects to be financed by Arab and Jordanian investors.

Kabariti said 11 local investors had expressed interest in building four hotels in Petra, where an existing four-star hotel will complete a 65-bed extension in about seven months.

The government is willing to lease state land in Petra for hotel development, but investors say it is hard to secure bank loans for construction on land they do not own.

Kabariti said two hotels would be built in Aqaba this year and a

health hotel on the Dead Sea was nearing completion.

Another priority was to upgrade hotel training facilities for Jordanians who lack experience in the tourist sector.

He said sharp increases in hotel prices such as the 50 per cent slipped on in August to compensate for a slump in the exchange value of the dinar should be avoided.

Hoteliers say their prices are still competitive. A night in a five-star hotel in Amman costs about \$100 for an individual. A couple on a group tour might pay only \$96 for a room, breakfast and dinner at the same hotel.



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## Bonn accelerates debate on German monetary union

FRANKFURT (R) — West Germany called Friday for faster moves towards a monetary union between the two Germanys.

"To provide the East German people with an immediate and convincing hope for the future, the introduction of the (West German) mark as the official currency in East Germany could be necessary," West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said.

He presented the possibility of introducing the West German currency as one of two choices. The alternative, favoured by the powerful West German central bank and leading economists, was to wait until East German economic productivity had improved before making the East German mark convertible and then creating monetary union.

"This path is well justified on economic grounds, but it needs time and will require patience on the part of the East German people," Waigel said.

He linked the debate about monetary union with moves for a unification of the two Germanys which have gathered pace dramatically after East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow Thursday urged the creation of a single, neutral Germany.

"In this context, the question arises of the relationship between the two German currencies," Waigel said.

The West German central bank, the Bundesbank, has taken the same cautious stance on German monetary union as it has on economic and monetary union within the European Community.

On both counts, it has called for only gradual moves to the creation of a single currency.

In January, Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl said it was not realistic to believe East Germany would introduce the West German mark as its currency. If it did, East Germany's currency would be administered in Frankfurt, he added.

Waigel said: "It is essential for the Bundesbank to remain in charge of the money supply in the

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

**Westpac to close Bahrain office**

BAHRAIN (R) — Australia's Westpac Banking Corporation said Saturday it would close its representative office in Bahrain by the end of April. The closure was part of a review of overseas operations by the bank that would also affect other offices, chief representative Allan Fraser said in a statement. "The bank's commitment to Bahrain and other Gulf states will, however, continue to be serviced through a regular visiting programme by executives from Australia and London offices," the statement said. Westpac has been operating in Bahrain since 1976. It employs five people in the Gulf state, two of them Bahrainis.

**Algeria's first bond issue fails**

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's first attempt to raise funds through a local bond issue was a failure, the country's news agency APS said Saturday. The agency, giving results for the first time, said the issue raised only 13.2 million dinars (\$1.6 million) compared to the target of 4.5 billion dinars (\$562 million). The 1989 national solidarity loan was aimed at absorbing excess liquidity and helping to finance a projected current account deficit of 13 billion dinars (\$1.6 billion). Officials said people found the interest rates unattractive and lacked confidence in the government's economic recovery plan. Many were also unfamiliar with the concept of bonds. The issue was in three tranches, a 12-year bond in dinars at eight per cent annual interest, a three-year on-interest bond and a five-year bond in French francs at nine per cent annually. APS said only four million dinars (\$500,000) had been raised in hard currency.

**Israeli farmers seek independence**

TEL AVIV (R) — Hundreds of Israeli farmers have decided to set up an association to market their produce through alternative channels to the citrus marketing board and Agrexco monopolies, Israel radio has reported. Both companies have a legally-anchored monopoly but farmers who argue that administrative costs significantly reduce their income have increasingly criticised their role. Agrexco handles non-citrus perishable farm produce. The radio said the farmers took the decision at a meeting in the village of Kfar Bili, near Rehovot, Thursday. It also quoted Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz as saying he would not permit marketing outside the existing system but was ready to help to streamline operations to cut costs.

**Bahrainis begin 2-day weekend**

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's civil servants began a five-day working week Saturday, cutting a day from the 36-hour week they previously spent in the office. The six-month trial makes Bahrain the third Gulf Arab state after Oman and Saudi Arabia to introduce a two-day weekend.

**Japan vehicle exports decline**

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's exports of cars, trucks and buses declined by 3.6 per cent to 5.88 million vehicles in 1989, the fourth consecutive year of decline, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association has said. The association said the reason was a 9.9 per cent decline in exports to the United States, where local production of Japanese cars is expanding. It said six Japanese makers produced 1.25 million vehicles in the United States in 1989, up 40.6 per cent from 1988. Meanwhile, exports to the United States from Japan fell to 2,430,259 vehicles. Globally, Japan exported 4,391,869 passenger cars in 1989, down 0.9 per cent; 1,456,887 trucks, down 10.4 per cent and 35,149 buses, down 23.1 per cent, all compared with 1988, the association said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Saturday, February 3, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	115.3 116.5
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	452.6 457.1
Pound Sterling	1109.0	1120.7	Dutch guilder	347.3 350.8
Deutsche mark	391.5	395.4	Swedish crown	107.8 108.9
Swiss franc	441.7	446.1	Italian lira (for 100)	32.7 33.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	107.9 109.3

## Polish inflation, unemployment soar

WARSAW (R) — Poland's unemployment and inflation jumped to postwar records last month as government austerity measures began to bite, according to figures issued Friday.

State television, citing the finance ministry, said overall inflation in January was 68.2 per cent while food prices rose 75 per cent.

The overall figure far exceeded a 46 per cent official forecast and December's 17.7 per cent rise.

Unemployment also soared to tens of thousands for the first time in post-war Poland after being officially non-existent for 45 years until Solidarity ousted the communists in September.

Government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska told a news conference that 55,800 people were registered as unemployed and seeking jobs in January compared with 9,600 in December.

Jobs available fell from 254,000 to 35,200, she said. The ratio of jobs available dropped from 26 per job-seeker to less than one. In Warsaw the rate was 5-1 but it was dramatically lower in some provincial cities.

The government has prepared social security measures to cope with 400,000 unemployed under its austerity programme but it says International Monetary Fund (IMF) experts forecast up to one million.

However, another unemployment statistic announced by Niezabitowska was likely to be welcomed by Poles. She said the government had substantially dismantled the SB secret police, slashing its numbers from 9,193 to 3,542.

Most of the redundant men, whose service was a pillar of the former communist government, had been sent to normal police work and some were being retrained, she said.

The sharp rise in prices and unemployment showed the impact of the IMF-backed corrective programme launched Jan. 1 to curb hyper-inflation that totalled 740 per cent last year.

However, Niezabitowska and Deputy Finance Minister Andrzej Podsiadlo told reporters there were signs that the programme was on track and would quickly bring down inflation.

They said prices soared sharply in the first week of January, when subsidies were lifted and utility prices increased several times, but flattened out progressively during the month.

The government was now revising downwards its February forecast of 20 per cent inflation. The television said the finance ministry's new forecast was 7.4 per cent but Podsiadlo did not confirm this.

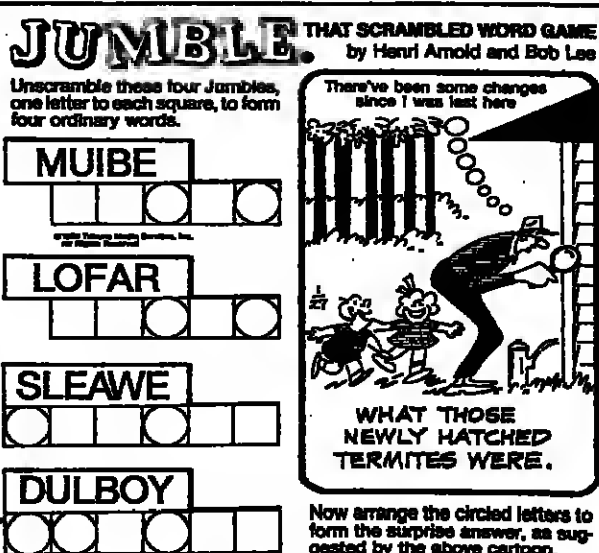
Unique solution

Meanwhile Poland has begun lobbying Western nations for a unique solution to its \$40 billion debt burden which is threatening its sweeping economic reform programme, a senior Polish central bank official said.

"Why should our children, who were not involved in the choice of

## Turks rush 'for gold'

ISTANBUL (R) — Investors queued up at dawn at booming Istanbul's stock exchange Friday to snap up newly-floated shares of two Turkish firms and a bank. "It was unbelievable. People came in the dark and then stormed through the exchange," said one broker. "It was like a scene from the gold rush days of past centuries." The market index gained two per cent to a record 3,833.96. It has risen more than 10-fold since the end of 1988 on a bull run spurred by new regulations admitting foreign buyers. The new shares offered by Finansbank A.S., a private bank, Genas A.S., a producer of metal equipment, and Peg A.S. of Profilo, a durable household goods maker, sold out immediately. Finansbank, which more than doubled 1989 profits, set an offer price of 6,600 lira.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

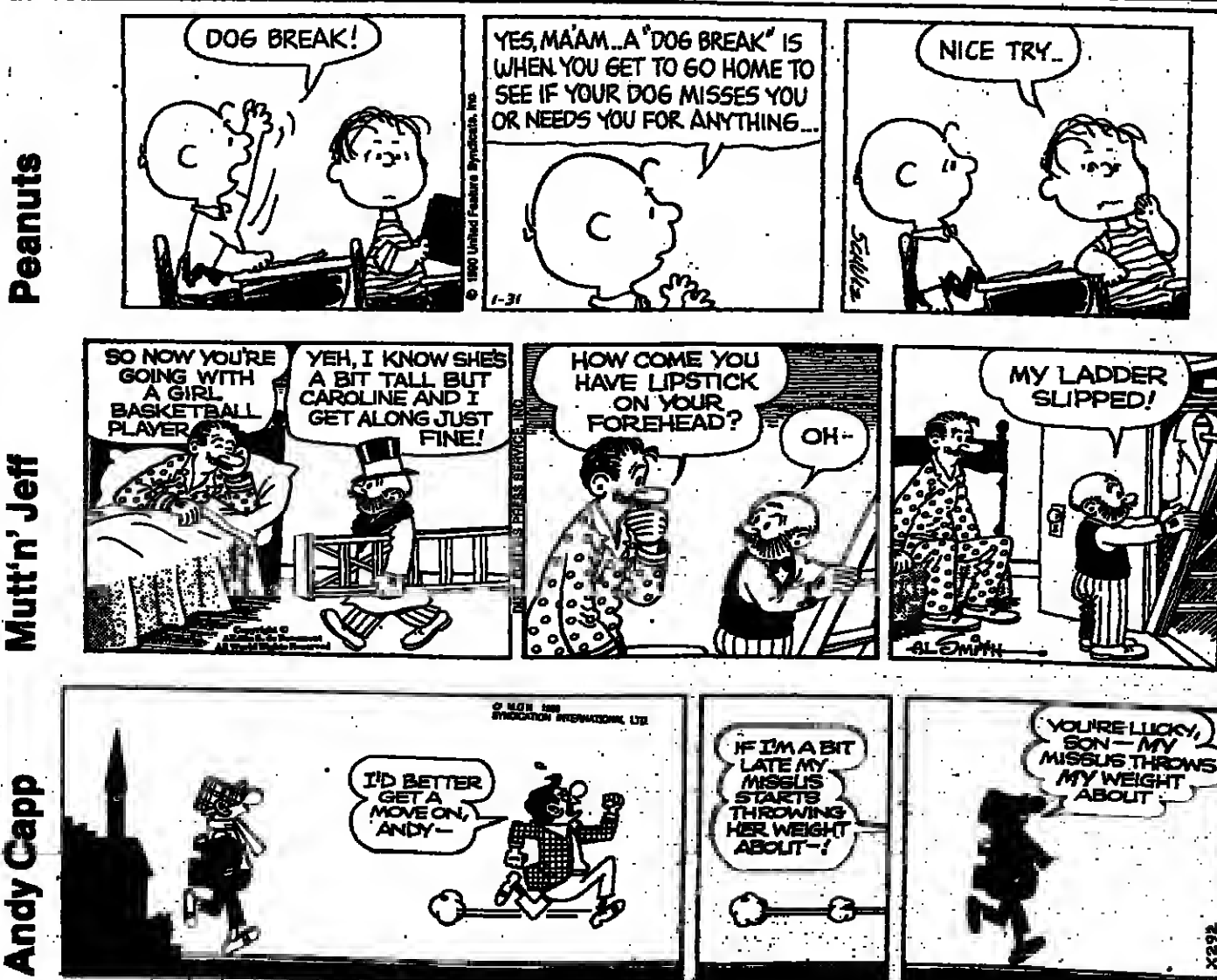
Answer here:  IN THE  (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: SNOWY BEFUS SCHMIE TULSH  
Answer: What horsepower should be mixed with... HORSE SENSE

## Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Jan. 27, '90 and ending Wednesday Jan. 31, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	25350	92594	3.600	3.600	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	61534	120666	1.920	1.890	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	13950	36546	2.510	2.520	1.000
Housing Bank	4200	15860	3.950	3.750	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	756	11145	15.200	14.710	5.000
Bank of Jordan	11720	3173720	233.000	268.000	10.000
Arab Bank	6085	16045	2.670	2.570	1.000
Jordan National Bank	13907	50102	3.800	3.790	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	145603	369875	2.280	2.440	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	11481	29969	2.640	2.570	1.000
National Financial Investments	1500	1630	1.080	1.080	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	—	—	—	—	—
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	—
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	—
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Middle East Insurance	49100	105463	2.350	2.000	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	10732	45819	2.700	2.700	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	4725	6578	1.370	1.370	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	4250	7438	1.750	1.750	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	200	430	2.200	2.150	1.000
Philadelpia Insurance	750	1363	1.800	1.850	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	250	338	1.410	1.350	1.000
Jermalem Insurance	6059	10784	1.830	1.770	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	4500	7470	1.730	1.660	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
National Abiya Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
Arab Belgium Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	—
United Insurance	150	204	1.250	1.380	1.000
Arab Eagle Insurance	41450	95833	1.810	2.320	1.000
Universal Insurance	20075	26761	1.130	1.220	1.000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	—
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	—
Darco for Housing and Investment	3719	4046	1.120	1.100	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	654963	707538	1.090	1.040	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	619986	509385	0.800	0.810	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	250	100	0.340	0.440	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	88800	54790	1.180	1.080	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	—
Jordanian Electric Power	5901	8566	1.470	1.440	1.000
Arab District Electricity	—	—	—	—	—
Arab International Hotels	72997	116659	1.580	1.620	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	—
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	158150	119797	0.760	0.720	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Medical Shipping Lines	500	1300	2.670	2.600	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	—
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Dairy	13966	26357	1.940	1.880	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	66378	341191	5.180	5.250	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	390928	1273223	3.200	3.230	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	11484	52826	4.600	4.600	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	5179	12468	2.480	2.400	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	5878	44437	7.450	7.550	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	183740	366810	2.290	2.250	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	—
Aladdin Industries	2300	7766	3.560	3.360	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	140911	403391	2.800	2.860	1.000
Jordan Worsted Mills	1250	7513	5.700	6.250	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	3280	10539	3.250	3.070	1.000
Chemical Industries	4630	15765	3.600	3.450	1.000
Jordan Industries and Material (JIMCO)	101601	268958	2.140	2.050	1.000
Dar Al Dawra for Development and Investment	6309	26139	4.400	4.150	1.000
National Steel Industries	4500	11880	2.770	2.600	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	3118	17733	5.750	5.780	1.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	12234	99856	8.220	8.150	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	—	—	—	—	—
National Industries	338786	491453	1.240	1.440	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	53512	42340	0.720	0.800	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	492791	574364	1.200	1.170	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	2600	9005	3.500	3.450	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	105100	157754	1.390	1.480	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	6660	22472	3.390	3.390	1.000
Rafin Industrial for Plastic Bags	100	280	2.950	2.900	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1470	13808	10.200	9.250	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	21350	67022	3.250	3.120	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Hinch Mineral	—	—	—	—	—
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	—
Wooden Industries	13012	21114	1.640	1.620	1.000
Jordan Tanning	475	1188	2.500	2.500	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	94	383	4.100	4.100	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	—
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	—
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	51500	122820	2.410	2.340	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	98350	515330	5.250	5.020	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	240188	676427	3.070	2.660	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	31500	91700	2.940	2.860	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	192207	123032	1.230	1.190	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	159688	259638	1.640	1.600	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	86909	64104	0.730	0.720	1.000
National Quarry	18850	23520	1.330	1.230	1.000
Grand total	4,942,342	12,000,866			









# Armenian, Azeri fronts agree to ceasefire at Riga talks

MOSCOW (R) — Delegates from the warring Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed Saturday to cease hostilities along their joint border and declared the escalation of their ethnic conflict was against both sides' interests.

Leaders of the two southern republics' mass movements also agreed on provisions for an exchange of hostages taken during the latest violence over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory that has claimed more than 320 lives in the past two years.

A spokesman for the Latvian Popular Front, host for the meetings in the Latvian capital Riga, said the two sides had issued a joint statement after the conclusion of their first round of direct talks in the hours of Saturday.

"It stated that they agreed that the escalation of the conflict was against the interests of both sides," he said.

The spokesman said the Armenians and Azerbaijanis had also agreed on provisions for the exchange of hostages and a cessation of hostilities along their entire border, where thousands of Soviet troops have been deployed to keep the peace.

But both sides had restated their positions over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region which has been part of Soviet Azerbaijan since 1923 but is populated mainly by Armenians.

According to the Moscow Radio publication Interfax, the two delegations had stressed that

their conflict arose from territorial claims rather than religious differences. Armenia has a Christian culture while Azeris are traditionally Muslim.

The talks between leader of the Azerbaijani Popular Front and the Armenian National Movement are being held under the auspices of the Baltic Council composed of the powerful popular front mass movements of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

At earlier separate talks with members of the Baltic Council, the Azerbaijani Popular Front condemned Moscow's decision to send troops into their capital, Baku on Jan. 20. About 100 people were killed in several days of street fighting.

The Azeris said the dispatch of troops was an act of aggression and a violation of Azerbaijan's sovereignty. The Armenians, who also met the council separately, called the deployment of troops in Baku a "destabilizing factor."

The direct talks began Friday at the Latvian Writers' Union with an agenda covering refugees, humanitarian problems and the deployment of Soviet troops.

The Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov, said last week that the main reason for sending the troops in was to crush a nationalist revolt by the Azerbaijani Popular Front, whom he described as "extremists."

Other Soviet leaders said the troops were sent in to restore order after anti-Armenian riots last month in which about 60 people were killed. Some have recommended negotiations with the Popular Front, regarded as the main political force in the southern Soviet republic.

## Lukanov elected new Bulgarian premier

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Politburo member Andrei Lukanov, a moderate Communist reformer, was elected Bulgaria's new premier by parliament Saturday, a day after the opposition rejected a Communist offer to join a provisional government.

Lukanov, a 51-year-old economist, is the third moderate to take over as the country's premier since hard-line Communist leader Todor Zhivkov was ousted on Nov. 10 after 35 years in power. Lukanov was elected by a unanimous vote of the Communist-controlled parliament.

"We have to make fundamental economic reforms and we have to do them immediately," Lukanov told parliament Saturday, promising to present new ministers for his government Thursday and to prepare a programme for social and economic problems by Feb. 28.

The Communist-dominated government of the previous premier, Georgi Atanasov, resigned late Thursday during a Communist Party congress. The congress ended Friday with the election of politburo member Alexander Lilov, 56, as the new party chairman.

He replaced Petar Mladenov, 53, who will continue to serve as president — the head of state.

At a joint news conference Friday with Lukanov, Lilov told reporters that consultations will start Saturday with "other parties and groups for setting up a government of national concord."

His comment was a renewed offer to the opposition to enter into a new government with the Communists.

Petar Beron, a senior member of both the Ecoglasnost Environmentalist group and the opposition Union of Democratic Forces, said the opposition would stay away from the talks.

Lukanov is "very capable and resourceful," Beron said Saturday, though he repeated the opposition's refusal to take part in a provisional government.

"We shall refuse certainly to take part," he said. "We have not got any formal proposal. Nobody has offered us any proposal on the conditions and circumstances (for participating in a government)..."

...I expect Lukanov to approach us... but we have declared several times that, under the circumstances we cannot take part."

## Romanian front to continue as dominant political force

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — The National Salvation Front (NSF) apparently will continue as the dominant force in Romanian political life despite a power-sharing agreement reached with opposition parties, a source said Friday.

The political accord reached Thursday followed 10 days of opposition protests over the provisional government's decision to participate in May 20 elections, reversing an earlier pledge to stay out of the contest.

The opposition argued that the unelected National Salvation Front, which has run the country since the December revolution that toppled Nicolae Ceausescu, couldn't be both a referee and player in Romania's first free election since World War II.

Under the agreement, a Council of National Unity will replace the 150-man front, which has ruled by decree.

National Liberal Party leader Radu Campeanu said the council would have 180 members, including representatives of political parties and prominent Romanians from all walks of life, including those who fought in the revolution.

But a source in the front who was privy to the talks told the Associated Press Friday that the council's non-political side will be members of the front's current governing council or figures acceptable to the front.

Also Friday, four top officials in Ceausescu's government were convicted of being accomplices to genocide and sentenced by a military tribunal to life in prison. The four men were convicted of backing Ceausescu's orders to shoot demonstrators during the bloody December revolution.

## Soviet party to study giving up monopoly

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party will consider giving up its guaranteed monopoly on political power and other radical proposals at a key meeting next week, a Moscow Radio publication said Saturday.

The Interfax news bulletin said the proposals would come in a "draft platform of the CPSU" to be submitted Monday to a plenary session or plenum of the Central Committee, the party's policy-making body.

Interfax, which has good official contacts, did not specify who was behind the proposals but the wording left little doubt it was referring to an official report to be delivered by party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Our ideal is humane democratic socialism," the news service directly quoted the document — which would be the centerpiece of the plenum — as saying.

"The draft platform calls for a radical pre-revolution of the party, which will fight for its leading role, but assume no state or government powers, nor lay any claim to having its role set down in the constitution," Interfax said.

It said the principle of a multi-party system "is not rejected, but is not treated as a panacea" in the draft, which also provided for the right to platforms within the party and the right of a minority to defend its views.

"However, the party will not permit factions with an internal organization or discipline of their own," it said.

Some central committee officials, contacted through Soviet journalists, said they could not comment on the Interfax report or confirm that it corresponded to a draft Gorbachev has been preparing over the past two weeks.

Other Soviet sources said it appeared to conform to what they had learned of the ideas the Kremlin chief was to put forward.

Interfax, which has been in existence since last summer, said the plan also proposed radical changes in the leadership.

## 4 more killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — At least four people were killed Friday in the Kashmir Valley, including the Hindu civilian, after an eight-day lull in violence, officials said.

The latest deaths raised to 76 the number of people killed, including Muslims and Indian troops, since the government ordered a crackdown on Jan. 20 on the Muslim movement for secession of Kashmir region from northern Jammu-Kashmir state.

India and Pakistan have gone to war three times since they were partitioned in 1947 following independence from Britain.

Kashmir militants at first demanded union with Pakistan but recently they have demanded a separate neutral nation that if formed would be sandwiched next to India, Pakistan and China.

Jammu-Kashmir is the only province with a Muslim majority in the country. At least 65 per cent of its 5 million people are Muslims. Nationwide, Muslims account for 12 per cent of India's 880 million people.

New Delhi has been accusing neighbouring Pakistan, an Islamic state, of fomenting the trouble in Kashmir. Islamabad has been denying the charges but said the people of Kashmir had a right to self-determination.

Last week's bitter trading of accusations culminated in increased Pakistani and Indian military activities near their border.

"The Indian people and army are prepared to give a befitting reply" if Islamabad wanted a confrontation, said Prime Minister V.P. Singh in Calcutta, UNI reported.

## De Klerk receives worldwide praise

LONDON (AP) — South Africa received worldwide praise Friday for its decision to release Nelson Mandela and legalise banned opposition groups, but some nations said further changes were needed to eliminate apartheid.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher immediately lifted cultural and academic embargoes on South Africa and declared that her stance against economic sanctions, at odds with British allies, had paid off.

Anti-apartheid groups demanded continued economic and other sanctions that they said forced South Africa's white-dominated government to reform.

Mrs. Thatcher described South African President F.W. De Klerk's announcement as "far-reaching, bold and courageous," and said, "we shall step up contacts."

"We believe in carrots as well as sticks and they've had plenty of the latter, they should now have some of the former," Mrs. Thatcher told reporters outside her office.

She invited De Klerk and Mandela, upon his release, to visit Britain and said the U.S. policy of disinvestment and tightening sanctions was "a mistake."

British officials said that "in due course" she would raise the issue of easing embargoes in the European Community and the Commonwealth.

In Washington, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said De Klerk's decision to release Mandela on an unspecified date and legalise the African National Congress guerrilla movement were "positive steps."

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the steps announced by De Klerk "lay the groundwork for negotiations to begin."

"We call on all South African parties, including those unbanned by President De Klerk, to take up this offer of negotiations and begin in earnest the process of a peaceful transition to a non-racial democratic South Africa," she said.

De Klerk also said he would legalise other black dissident groups, declare a moratorium on executions and lift most state of emergency measures.

Tutwiler noted that the South African president's announcement did not completely lift the state of emergency in that country, but said, "we welcome indications that this may happen soon."

The Soviet Union called De Klerk's measures "an important and long-awaited step in the right direction."

But the official Soviet News Agency (TASS) quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying: "It is necessary that they should be followed by practical actions, that other measures should be taken, specifically, on the lifting of the state of emergency in the country..."

Sir Shridath Ramphal, secretary-general of the Commonwealth, the 49-nation association of Britain and its former colonies, said South Africa had reached "a moment of hope."

"(But) much of President De Klerk's announcement is a statement of intent," Ramphal said.

Minister Taro Nakayama said the measures were key to starting black-white negotiations in South Africa.

West Germany, France and other West European countries all said South Africa had moved in the right direction. French President Francois Mitterrand said he sent Mandela a message praising the jailed black leader for his "courage and dignity."

Scandinavian nations, fearful imposers of sanctions, said the time was not right to let up.

"The pressure of the South African regime must be kept up," Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said.

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said he expected the EC nations to meet soon to discuss lifting some embargoes.

"The situation has changed fundamentally. ... a wall has come down," he said.

U.S. sanctions have been the harshest of any imposed by South Africa's major trading partners, which include Britain, West Germany, France, Japan and the black southern African nations neighbouring the white-ruled country.

Bills pending in the U.S. Congress seek to impose a total trade embargo and ban banks from rescheduling loans to South Africa.

Mrs. Thatcher has fought to prevent Commonwealth sanctions. Among the milder measures she accepted in 1985 was a decision to "discourage cultural and scientific agreements."

The 12-nation EC bans iron and steel imports from South Africa.

## Kohl: Blocking unity drive would lead to crisis

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) — Any attempt to block the quickening drive towards German unity could touch off a crisis in East Germany and doom any chance of reviving its crippled economy, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Saturday.

East Germans are calling for unity with mounting impatience and their protests have launched a historical process with a momentum that outsiders cannot control, he told a meeting of business leaders in this Swiss ski resort.

Kohl addressed the World Economic Forum only hours before his first meeting with East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow, who overturned 40 years of Communist policy Thursday to back a merger of the two Germanys if the new state were neutral.

The chancellor only mentioned Modrow's concession long enough to again reject its neutrality demand and say Bonn would discuss unity with new leaders after East Germany's first free elections on March 18.

"The alternatives to a policy of reason, dialogue and tangible changes are written on the wall in warning letters," Kohl said in his prepared address.

These were "the danger of crisis that could overshadow the first peaceful revolution on German soil and a continued mass exodus that wipes out chances of economic recovery the longer it lasts," he said.

More than 58,000 East Germans flocked westwards in January, worsening a grave labour shortage in the homeland they left and further straining West Germany's tight job and housing markets.

Wolfgang Berghofer, the mayor of Dresden who quit East Germany's crumbling Communist Party last month, said Friday the exodus would force unity faster than anyone expected.

"The exodus of East German citizens to West Germany means we will be forced to make decisions this year, whether we like it or not," he said.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 7 killed in W. German train collision

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Two rush-hour commuter trains collided after a driver overlooked a stop signal, killing seven and injuring numerous passengers, authorities have said.

The accident in suburban Rueselsheim occurred at 4:20 p.m. local time on the heavily used run between Frankfurt and Wiesbaden, spokesman Walter Heuss of the federal railroad network said.

Some cars derailed and rescue workers were unsure how many passengers were trapped in the wreckage. A spokesman for the Rueselsheim Police said he had been told there were seven fatalities in the accident and numerous injuries. Heuss said both trains were travelling at relatively slow speed when the collision occurred. The derailed cars forced authorities to close down the section of track affected and to reroute other trains during the heavy traffic period Friday evening.

### Timisoara revolt claimed 71 lives

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian authorities said just 71 people died in Timisoara in the December uprising against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, in contrast to initial estimates which put the number of victims at many thousands. The new toll, which adds five more deaths to the official figure, was released in a government report Saturday.

Students at Timisoara's Polytechnic Institute immediately said they were not satisfied with the investigation and would carry out their own inquiries. They told the official Rompres news agency they would make house-to-house visits to establish from relatives just how many people were dead, injured or missing in the western city, 570 kilometres from Bucharest near the Yugoslav border. The unrest which precipitated Ceausescu's overthrow began in Timisoara in mid-December. First reports said thousands died in fighting against his hated Securitate secret police.

### China delays Czechoslovak visit

PEKING (R) — China said Saturday it had postponed the visit to Peking of a Czechoslovakian minister in protest against the tour of Prague by Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. The official New China News Agency said Peking had no choice but to delay the visit by Ladislav Vodrazka, minister for metallurgy, engineering and electrical engineering, because the invitation to the Dalai Lama was a "gross interference" in China's internal affairs.

Czechoslovakian ambassador in Peking Eduard Saul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Saturday, the agency said. The Dalai Lama is in Prague as a guest of Czechoslovakian President Václav Havel. Vodrazka was scheduled to begin his stay in China on Feb. 17. No new date was set. "The Czechoslovakian president's insistence on inviting the Dalai Lama to Czechoslovakia in disregard of the solemn position made clear to him in advance by the Chinese side constitutes a gross interference in China's internal affairs," the agency said.

### U.S. to allow immigrants' families to stay

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of illegal aliens who are spouses or children of legalised immigrants will be allowed to stay in the United States under a new policy unveiled Friday by the U.S. Immigration Commissioner, Gene McNary. The new policy reverses a three-year-old practice of admitting only those family members for "compelling humanitarian reasons." McNary said the previous policy was not being administered evenhandedly by INS district offices and as a result split families. "We can enforce the law humanely," McNary told reporters at a briefing. "To split families simply encourages further violation of the law as they (illegal aliens) attempt to reunite," McNary said.

## C8LUMN

### Olive oil linked to lower blood pressure

CHICAGO (R) — A study of nearly 5,000 Italians has found that olive oil, particularly when used in place of butter on prepared foods, lowers blood pressure and blood sugar in addition to cholesterol, researchers have said. In both men and women, the more butter and margarine used the higher the levels of blood glucose detected, the report said. For those who used olive oil instead, there was a drop in glucose as well as in blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

The study, conducted by the State University of New York and by researchers in Milan, Naples and Rome, was published in this week's journal of the American Medical Association. It surveyed 4,903 men and women in all sections of Italy. "In particular, with regard to olive oil, our findings confirm a hypothesis of a negative association between this oil and serum cholesterol levels and support the hypothesis that olive oil may have beneficial effects on blood pressure and blood glucose levels," the report said.

## Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	08	37	08 46 Cloudy
ATHENS	07	45	18 55 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	16	61	19 92 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	75	34 93 Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	27	72	32 90 Rain
CAIRO	10	50	19 69 Cloudy
CHICAGO	-02	29	-01 31 Snow
COPENHAGEN	08	43	08 46 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	08	46	20 68 Cloudy
GENEVA	04	38	11 52 Cloudy
HONG KONG	13	55	19 59 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	05	41	09 46 Clear
LONDON	06	47	07 45 Rain
LOS ANGELES	09	46	20 68 Clear
MADRID	04	38	12 54 Cloudy
MECCA	21	70	28 84 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-12	10	-14 14 Clear
MOSCOW	-	-	-
NEW DELHI	10	46	21 70 Cloudy
NEW YORK	00	32	11 53 Cloudy
PARIS	08	43	14 57 Cloudy
ROME	07	45	18 61 Cloudy
SYDNEY	18	64	20 69 Rain
TOKYO	09	52	12 63 Rain
VIENNA	07	42	15 58 Cloudy

X - Indicates missing information.

## THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Rittman

### WORDWORK

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### ACROSS

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### Diagrams

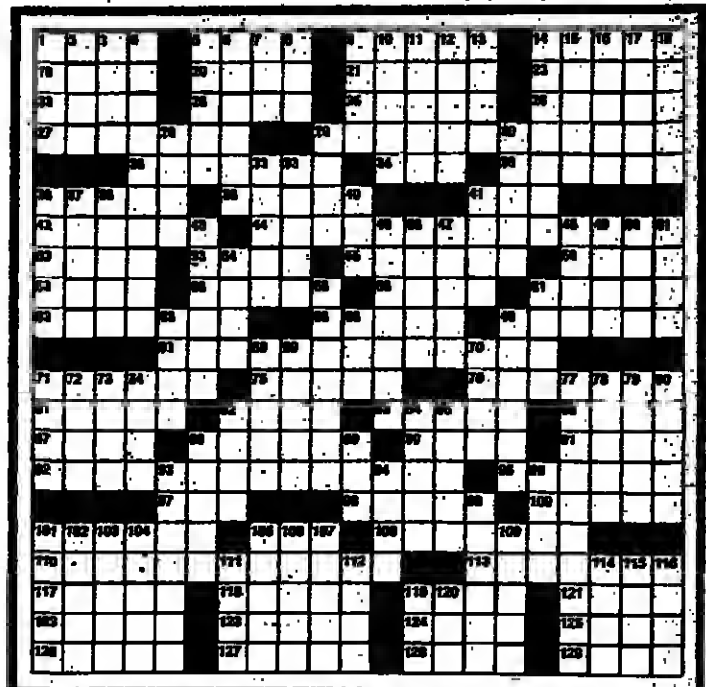
12x19, By James Rankin

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1231/89

1. Case little had who carried the big bass drum thought he was a human hand.
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